

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 111497
ORIGIN IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /104 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:DSCHIELE:EK
APPROVED BY IO:JABAKER
IO/UNP:GBHELMAN
ARA/RPP:POAKLEY
DOMESTIC COUNCIL:ASTERN (DRAFT)
-----151731Z 010948 /45
R 151428Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 111497

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, RQ

SUBJECT:COMMITTEE OF 24 (C-24): PUERTO RICO

REF: USUN 1408

1. DEPT CONCURS WITH RECOMMENDATION CONTAINED IN PARA 4
OF REFTEL. TEXT OF APPROVED LETTER IS CONTAINED IN NEXT
PARA.

2. BEGIN TEXT: THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF MAY 5,
REQUESTING THE VIEWS OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ON
SELF-DETERMINATION WITH REGARD TO PUERTO RICO. OUR VIEWS
ON THIS SUBJECT ARE WELL KNOWN, BUT I WOULD BE HAPPY TO
REITERATE THOSE VIEWS ON THIS OCCASION.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 111497

UNITED STATES POLICY ON PUERTO RICO IS BASED ON
COMPLETE ACCEPTANCE OF THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO
RICO TO SELF-DETERMINATION. THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO
EXERCISED THIS RIGHT IN APPROVING
COMMONWEALTH STATUS AND THEIR OWN CONSTITUTION IN 1952.
THEY REAFFIRMED THAT CHOICE IN A STATUS REFERENDUM IN
1967, IN WHICH 60.41 PERCENT VOTED FOR COMMONWEALTH

STATUS, 38.98 PERCENT VOTED FOR STATEHOOD AND 0.60 PERCENT

VOTED FOR INDEPENDENCE.

IN 1953 THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY EXPLICITLY RECOGNIZED THE SELF-GOVERNING STATUS OF PUERTO RICO AND AGREED TO THE REMOVAL OF PUERTO RICO FROM THE LIST OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES BY ADOPTING RESOLUTION 748 (VIII). THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REAFFIRMED THAT DECISION IN 1971 WHEN IT REJECTED AN ATTEMPT TO INSCRIBE AN ITEM CONCERNING PUERTO RICO ON THE AGENDA OF ITS TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION. THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO REGULARLY PARTICIPATE IN FREE AND OPEN ELECTIONS, THE MOST RECENT OF WHICH OCCURRED IN NOVEMBER 1976. IN THAT ELECTION THE CANDIDATE OF THE PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION PARTY WAS ELECTED GOVERNOR, WHILE THE COMBINED VOTE OF THE TWO PARTIES SUPPORTING INDEPENDENCE WAS ONLY 6 PERCENT.

THE UNITED STATES HAS OFTEN MADE CLEAR THAT THE QUESTION OF THE STATUS OF PUERTO RICO IS AN INTERNAL AFFAIR OF THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO AND THE UNITED STATES. PRESIDENT CARTER HAS STATED THAT HE WILL SUPPORT WHATEVER STATUS THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO WISH, BUT THAT THE INITIATIVE FOR ANY CHANGE SHOULD COME FROM THEM. IN VIEW OF THE SELF-GOVERNING STATUS OF PUERTO RICO, AND THE FACT THAT THE NATURE OF ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES IS BASED ON THE FREE EXPRESSION OF THE WILL OF THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 111497

THE US GOVERNMENT REGARDS DISCUSSION OF PUERTO RICO'S STATUS IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS, PARTICULARLY IN FORUMS WHICH DEAL WITH COLONIAL ISSUES, AS INAPPROPRIATE. END TEXT

CHRISTOPHER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, INDEPENDENCE, SELFDETERMINATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE111497
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DSCHIELE:EK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770172-0999
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770555/aaaabvnt.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d6374693-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 USUN NEW YORK 1408
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2513060
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMITTEE OF 24 (C-24): PUERTO RICO
TAGS: PFOR, RQ, UN, C-24
To: USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d6374693-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009